



Southdown Sheep Society Council meeting
Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 1030h
Held in the Jersey Cattle Society Pavilion, Stoneleigh Park

Minutes

Those present:

Brian Alderson	(BA)	
Sid Cook	(SC)	
Lindsay Dane	(LD)	
Patrick Goldsworthy MBE	(PG)	
Stephen Humphrey	(SH)	
Jonathan Long	(JL)	Chairman
Sarah Mitchell	(SM)	President Elect
Tim Morris	(TM)	<i>from 1230h</i>
Miriam Parker	(MP)	
Michael Sprake	(MS)	
Neil Stainthorpe	(NS)	Hon. Treasurer
Gail Sprake	(GS)	Secretary

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Action by</u>	<u>Due by</u>
<p>1. Welcome The chairman welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies Apologies had been received from Rob Beaumont, Duncan Crundwell, Paul Humphrey, Les Newman and Howard Wood. The chairman confirmed that no apologies had been received from E Harmer, and confirmation awaited regarding J Harmer as named representative for Messrs Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer.</p>		
<p>2. Declaration and consideration of conflicts of interest</p> <p>The Declarations of Interest paper had previously been circulated and any changes and updates should be given to the secretary.</p> <p>The chairman asked all those present to declare any conflicts of interest or loyalty regarding any item on the agenda. No conflicts declared.</p>		

<p>3. Minutes of Council meetings</p> <p>October 20th 2021 November 5th 2021</p> <p>The adoption of the Minutes was proposed en bloc by SH, seconded by LD. All in favour.</p>		
<p>4. Matters arising, not covered elsewhere</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>		
<p>5. Appointments</p> <p>i) Honorary Treasurer One nomination received: Neil Stainthorpe, proposed by HW, seconded by PH.</p> <p>ii) President Elect One nomination received: Graham Ryves-Webb, proposed by JL, seconded by HW.</p>		
<p>6. Financial Matters</p> <p>i) 2021 Annual Report & Financial Statement The treasurer presented the draft 2021 Annual Report & Financial Statement. The Report & Statement had previously been scrutinised by the Finance committee. The 2021 accounts reflect a loss of £15,463 for the year. Total resources expended £46,087, total incoming resources £30,624, with total funds at 31/12/2021 being £49,070. NS highlighted that income from registrations and membership subscriptions was down from the previous year.</p> <p>It was proposed by NS, seconded by MP, all in favour, that the final draft of the 2021 Report and Accounts be adopted and presented to the membership at the 2021 AGM.</p> <p>The treasurer gave a brief summary of the current financial situation: Business Reserve a/c stands at £2465.47, the current a/c stands at £3566.78. Funds in CCLA £25.26, Cambridge & Counties Bank £41,459.54.</p> <p>The treasurer informed Council that the reimbursement of funds from DAS had been received on April 26th and totalled £8509.90. Following discussion it was agreed that mention would be made of this reimbursement when all AGM information was shared with members. NS proposed that all DAS reimbursement should be placed in Society reserve funds, to Business Reserve account and Cambridge & Counties Bank. LD seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>ii) Update re membership and outstanding subscriptions Currently 315 members (as at 13/04/2022), 291 with animals. 102 members have already paid 2022 subscription, 7 of whom have underpaid. A reminder sent, 2022 Flock Book to be sent only once payment updated. 220 members registered for Gift Aid, 25 members pay by standing order.</p>	<p>NS and GS</p>	

<p>2021 unpaid subscriptions: 73 members were reminded in November 2021, this generated 12 resignations and 19 members' payments. Following final reminder from treasurer in February 2022, remaining members were 'lapsed'.</p> <p>iii) Review of Secretary's remuneration Following discussion, it was agreed to increase the annual payment to £9750, reflecting that there had been no increase in this payment since 2019. Further discussion took place regarding the longer-term future of the secretary's payments and the impact on future Society expenditure and budgets. It was agreed to ask the secretary to undertake time recording to give Council a full understanding of the hours required to fulfil the role. The secretary was absent during this discussion.</p>		
<p>7. New members were noted and approved Tommy Thomson, Simon Miller, Mr & Mrs Needham, Mrs Sally Anne Martin, Paul Holden & Frances Dennis, George Dunbar & Shelagh Scott, Miss Scarlet Hale, Drew Coulter, Duncan Mark Smith, The Bullock Family, LJ Thompson & HJ Morgan, Olivia Skye Holtom, Emilie Kelso, and Molly Best.</p> <p>A membership application has been submitted by a breeder in Germany. The chairman clarified that as a UK Breed Society, post Brexit, we can no longer issue ZooTech certificates for overseas sheep. It was agreed that the Society would adopt a similar compromise approach as other breed societies, namely that as a Society we can register their sheep but cannot issue ZooTech certificates. GS to write to one existing German member and new applicant.</p>	GS	
<p>8. Report from Finance Committee</p> <p>i) The committee had reviewed membership and considered that the current 'one member, one fee' system remains valid, but advised consideration of a small increase in membership subscription for 2023.</p> <p>ii) Review of travel/mileage contribution The committee proposed to Council the following increases: Vehicle only – from 14p to 17p per mile With trailer - from 31p to 33p per mile Secretary's travel expenses The committee proposed to Council the following increase: Contribution for overnight allowance – from £65 to £70 Mileage rate to remain at 45p per mile The increases were proposed by NS, seconded by LD. All in favour.</p> <p>iii) Financial and membership strategy The committee reported that it was important to focus on member retention in addition to encouraging new members. Discussion re life membership category. All agreed that such discussion should form part of wider strategy discussion.</p>		
<p>9. Report from Communications Committee</p> <p>JL summarised the report in absence of HW.</p>		

<p>i) The 2022 Year Book & Spring newsletter are one publication as in previous two years.</p> <p>ii) Flyer to be produced with commercial focus in time for NSA event in July.</p> <p>iii) Replacement boards and banners. The current boards are 10+ years old. Council gave approval for spend of up to £750 for structural display items. JL advised consideration be given to regional groups holding display materials.</p> <p>iv) NSA event Malvern July 27th 2022: stand booked. JL to supply MV Acc sheep, foc delivery. It was confirmed that these sheep would be commercial.</p> <p>v) Social media remains a ‘work in progress’.</p>	<p>HW et al</p> <p>JL</p>	
<p>10. Report from Show & Sales Committee</p> <p>i) Judges panel management and new judges The committee proposed writing to all existing judges to ascertain their willingness to continue as a judge and that they have no conflict of interest in judging the breed. To be emphasized that attendance at a judges’ workshop is a requisite for remaining on the list of judges.</p> <p>Small number of judges to be retired and thanked for their previous service: Messrs Randall, Goode, Rideout, Pallister, Taylor and Draper. It was noted that D Randall had previously tendered his resignation from the judges’ panel. Emeritus list of judges to be removed.</p> <p>Recommendations approved unanimously.</p> <p>ii) New judge nominations The committee had offered a list of names for consideration. Following discussion, further names were added. Selection criteria debated: ie knowledgeable stockmen, show winners? Question posed as to the ideal number of judges. The list to date: Amy Page, Tudur Jones, Howard Wood, Harry Wood, Will Morton, Jessica Middleditch, Megan Chilcott, Amy Readhead-Higgins, Josh Evans, Mark Robertson, Alison Halcrow, Ben Slack, Chris Rhead, Lynn Brookes, Les Newman and Annette Stickels. Regional groups to be invited to offer further nominations. Potential new judges to be invited to a judges’ workshop at a venue to be decided.</p> <p>iii) Review of Society Sales It was agreed to circulate a survey to all members to better understand their stock purchasing and sale decisions and the role Society sales play in that.</p> <p>iv) Society sale judges 2022 The following judges were agreed: Worcester – Adam Brown. GS to send invitation. Melton Mowbray – Sarah Mitchell. SM accepted the invitation.</p> <p>v) National Show 2023 Committee proposed that Lincoln Show be approached to host the Society’s 2023 National Show. Stephen Humphrey proposed as judge.</p>	<p>Committee & GS</p> <p>Committee & GS</p> <p>Committee & GS</p> <p>JL / GS</p>	

<p>14. 2022 AGM</p> <p>i) Southdown Sheep Society nominations Six nominations were correctly received for six seats on Council. There is, therefore, no need for an election in 2022.</p> <p>The six nominees are: Sid Cook, Stephen Humphrey, Jonathan Long, Will Morton, Les Newman and Mark Robertson. GS to write to Mark Robertson & Will Morton to inform them.</p> <p>ii) Date and venue It was considered unnecessary to hold a Field Day style AGM every year. A simple AGM taking place at Stoneleigh, on the same date as the Autumn Council meeting (Wednesday October 19th) and to follow on from that meeting was considered satisfactory. Proposed by JL, seconded by PG, all in favour. This offers regional groups an opportunity to develop their own get-togethers, and allows Council to focus on development of a strategy.</p>	GS	
<p>15. Regional group activities MP considered a mandate for regional groups would be helpful. Some regional groups more active than others: West Midlands – M Parker East Midlands – W Morton East Anglia – M Robertson South East – no activity Wales – local members to be welcomed to West Mids events. Howard & Harry Wood to be encouraged to organise some event/activity.</p>		
<p>16. Correspondence There was no correspondence.</p>		
<p>17. Any Other Business</p> <p>i) D Randall raised question at 2020 AGM regarding shearing of show sheep. A written reply not yet received.</p> <p>ii) A quantity of merchandise still available: mugs & recipe books. GS to bring selection to next meeting for distribution around regional groups for resale. Ties are out of stock – further order to be placed featuring current logo. BA to assist.</p>	JL BA / GS / JL	
<p>CLOSE The meeting closed at 1411h</p>		